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May 24, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: ANE/AF, Jeff Malick
FROM: ANE/AF, Tim May
SUBJECT: Summary and Comments on Freedom Medicine's
Quarterly Report (1 January to 31 March, 1989)

Freedom Medicine recently submitted their Quarterly Report to ANE/AF for consideration. In the report, it is apparent that Freedom Medicine is responding actively to the changing military and political situation in Afghanistan. While continuing to train Afghans as paramedics (to date, 154 FM-trained paramedics are working inside Afghanistan), Freedom Medicine has expanded their training facilities to include paracentistry. Other plans include the development of an Advanced Training Module for the purpose of teaching advanced course material and training in areas such as clinic management and financial budgeting. It should be noted that Freedom Medicine graduates about ninety-six percent of the participants in their training programs, based on the data submitted in the report. In addition, their capacity to treat patients has increased significantly since the organization's inception. (In 1987 they treated a total of 25,005 patients, in 1988, 60,802, and in the first quarter of 1989 alone, almost 14,000 patients.)

Freedom Medicine recognizes that the Islamic Government of Afghanistan is steadily acquiring legitimacy and further understands that the Islamic Government must be "taken into account" in any future military or political scenario. Therefore it proposes to undertake the "Afghanization" of Freedom Medicine operations. This would entail the eventual planning, training and supervision of Afghan physicians by Afghans themselves, facilitating a smooth and efficient transfer of management responsibility to the Afghan people. It is hoped by Freedom Medicine that the Afghan-run operation will ultimately be subsumed by the Islamic Government's Ministry of Public Health.

Also in anticipation of the future merger of their organization into the Afghan Health Ministry, Freedom Medicine is initiating several training curriculum changes, the most important of which will be a change of emphasis from trauma and emergency care to primary health care for a civilian population. In the interim, however, Freedom Medicine will continue to provide trauma management training and also to increase training in mine awareness education. The latter is extremely important due to the impending mass repatriation of refugees based across the border in Pakistan.

In summary, Freedom Medicine continues to provide valuable medical support and training for the Afghan resistance. They also appear sincerely interested in helping the Afghan people help themselves, as shown in their willingness to train Afghans in managerial positions in addition to traditional medical training.

cc. ANE/AF, Gary Mansavage
ANE/TR/HR, Rich Whitaker
ANE/TR/PHN, Kris Loken

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